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YSTRADGYNLAIS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and
SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT
for
1939

Dr. Glyn M. Jones,
Council Offices,
Ystradgynlais.

G.J. Rees. C.R.I.S., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
(London by Exam).,

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
YSTRADGYNLAIS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

We have the honour to submit to you the annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of your area for the year 1939.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Chairman of the Public Health Committee:- Councillor Rees Powell
Public Health Offices:- Council Offices, Ystradgynlais.
Medical Officer of Health (Part time):- Dr. H.R. Stubbins M.D. D.P.H.
and latterly :- Dr. Glyn M. Jones M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Sanitary Inspector:- Mr. G.J. Rees. C.R.I.S., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A

1. The districts consist of two parishes, viz YSTRADGYNLAIS LOWER
and
YSTRADGYNLAIS HIGHER.

2. The area of each parish is as follows:-

Ystradgynlais Lower	13182	acres
Ystradgynlais Higher	9016	"
	<u>22198</u>	acres

3. The population of the district according to the Census of 1931 was:-

Ystradgynlais Lower	10251
Ystradgynlais Higher	1627
	<u>11878</u>

4. The population of the district according to the National Registration of September 1939 :- 11,300

5. The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1939 was 2837 as compared with 2736 in 1938.

6. The Rateable Value of the District and the sum represented by a penny rate of both parishes at the end of 1938 was:-

	£	£
Ystradgynlais Lower	28,746	104
Ystradgynlais Higher	5,948	24
	<u>34,694</u>	<u>128</u>

7. Ystradgynlais Lower is more industrial in nature than Ystradgynlais Higher; also it is mostly Urban in nature and more thickly populated. The chief industries of the area are coal mining, tinplate and agriculture.

8. Ystradgynlais Higher, a more rural parish, extends along the valley of the Tawe and includes part of Abercrave with the hamlets of Colbren, Penwyllt and Penycae. Agriculture is the main industry, whilst limestone quarrying and coal mining are two other promising industries.

9. BIRTHS

(a) Live Births:- 157

(b) Still Births:- 9

Table of Births as registered and rate per thousand population from 1930 - 1939 inclusive:-

Year	Population	Total	Rate per thousand
1930	11,970	214	18.46
1931	11,878	181	16.16
1932	11,760	187	16.01
1933	12,000	177	14.75
1934	11,840	181	15.28
1935	11,720	179	15.27
1936	11,490	191	16.63
1937	11,380	168	14.75
1938	11,320	178	15.73
1939	11,300	166	14.62

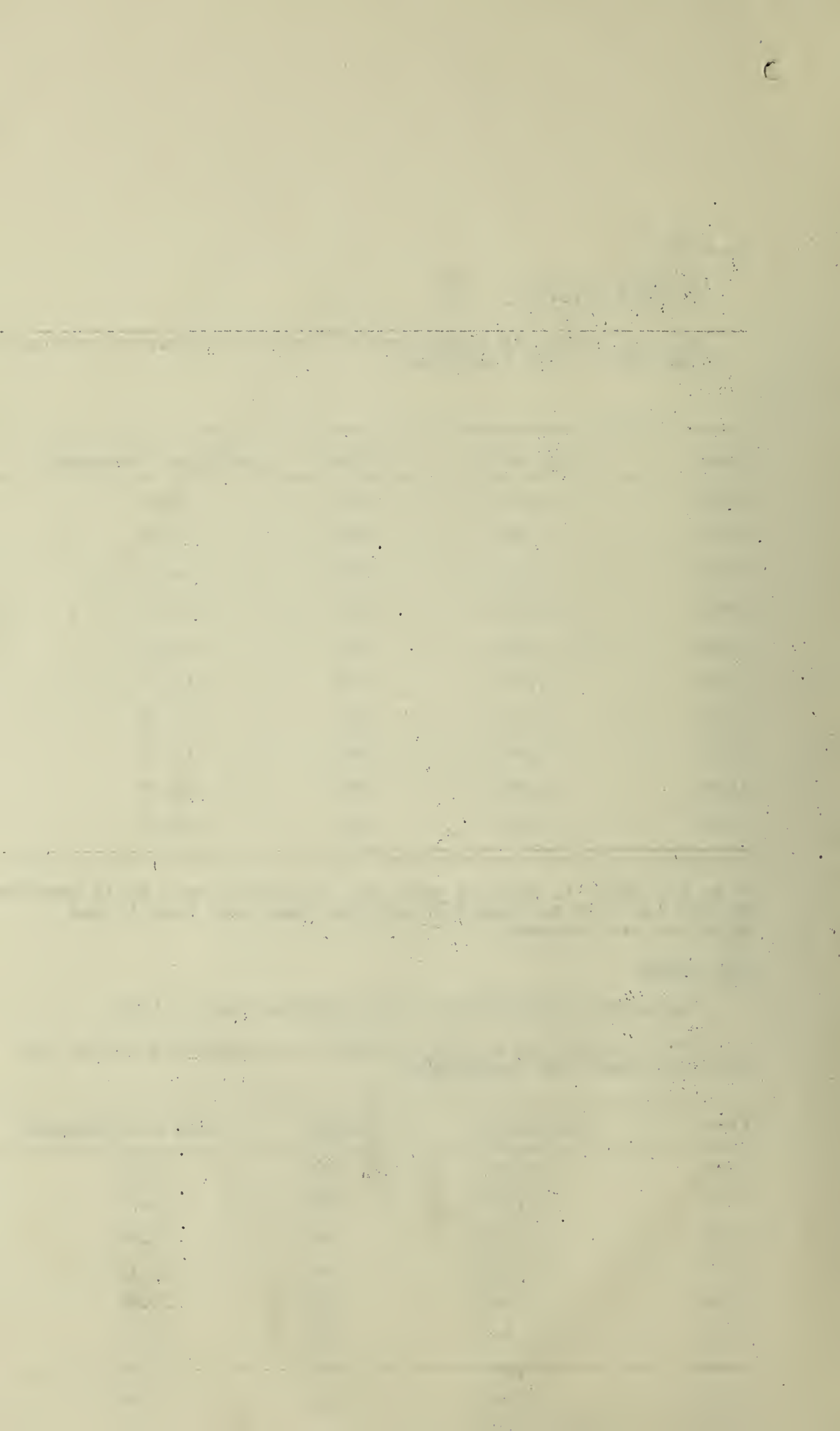
From the table it will be seen that the Birth rate still remains on the low side as compared with ten years ago when it was eighteen per thousand.

10. DEATHS.

Deaths were registered in the District viz:- 123

The following is a list of deaths as registered during the last ten years for comparison

Year	Population	Total	Rate per thousand
1930	11,970	150	12.53
1931	11,878	142	11.91
1932	11,760	146	12.41
1933	12,000	146	12.17
1934	11,840	122	10.31
1935	11,720	123	10.49
1936	11,490	111	9.66
1937	11,380	111	9.75
1938	11,320	117	10.33
1939	11,300	123	11.2



11. Below is the analysis of the causes of death which occurred in the year 1939.

Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1
Cancer	15
Diabetes	3
Diphtheria	0
Whooping Cough	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	0
Puerperal Fever	1
Heart Disease	39
Cerebral Haemorrhage	5
Other Circulatory Disorders	5
Pneumonia	4
Bronchitis	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	4

12. GENERAL RESUME

As in previous years Dr Betenson paid periodical visits to the Infant Centre and school clinics. The former are established at four points, Colbren, Abercrave, Ystradgynlais and Cwmtwrch. The Nursing Association is in operation in each district of the Council's area. The County Council giving a grant to each Association.

13. MIDWIVES.

The number practising in the area is four, all being attached to the Nursing Association of the County Council.

14. POOR LAW MEDICAL OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

This is controlled by the County Council and is now under the supervision of Dr. Glyn M. Jones.

15. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are sent to Dr. A. F. Sladden at the Beck Laboratory, Swansea, for examination and investigation.

16. HOSPITAL SERVICES.

17. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

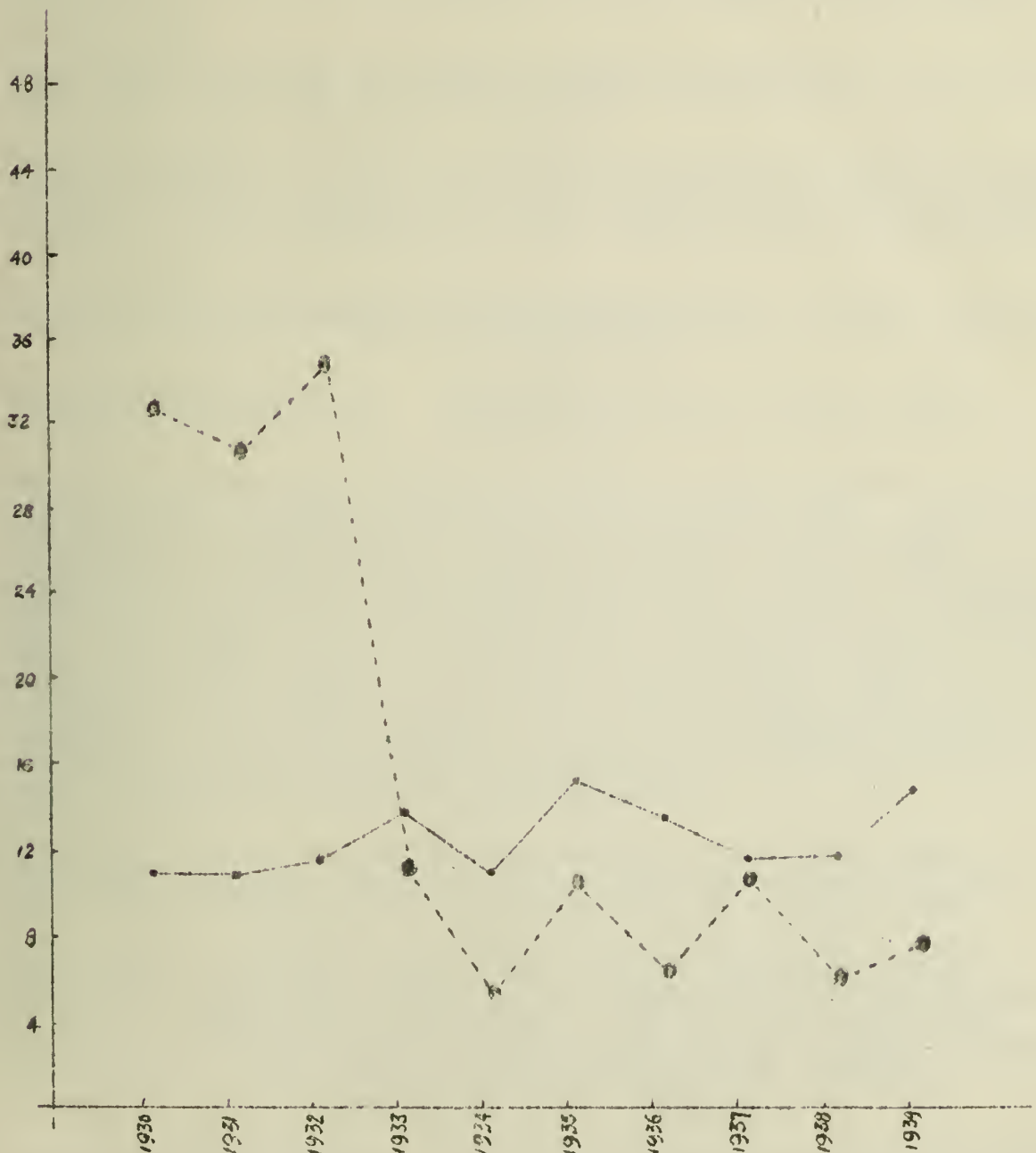
None - and there is a growing need for a hospital for these diseases, as the nearest efficient hospital is eighteen miles away.

18. GENERAL HOSPITALS OF WHICH THERE ARE TWO.

- (1) SWANSEA VOLUNTARY HOSPITAL. This is a fully equipped general hospital which has an extensive out-patient department. Most of the inhabitants of the district belong to the contributory scheme attached to it.

19. (2) WEST GLAMORGAN HOSPITAL, NEATH This is a Municipal Hospital under the Glamorgan County Council. By arrangement with the Glamorgan County Council The Breconshire County Council have the right to send complicated cases of midwifery to this Institution.

20 GRAPH shewing deaths for the last 10 years
 due to - PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS -----
 CANCER



21. SANATORIUM

The Adelina Patti Hospital at Craig-y-Nos under the Welsh National Memorial Association

22. INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS is made with these cases at the Breconshire Poor Law Institution and by arrangement with the Glamorgan County Council, at the Pontardawe Institution.

23. INSTITUTION FOR THE CARE OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES is made at the Mid Wales County Hospital, Talgarth

24. VACCINATION. Under the Local Government Act 1929 the County Council became responsible for the vaccination throughout the County for the Ystradgynlais Rural District area the following are responsible:-

1. VACCINATION OFFICER:- George Williams Esq, Council Offices, Ystradgynlais

2. PUBLIC VACCINATOR:- Dr. Glyn M Jones, Tanywern Lane, Ystalyfera.

During the year the Infectious Fevers Act was enacted so as to include the diseases of Measles and Whooping Cough. As from the 1st of November 1939 both these infectious fevers became notifiable. A few sporadic cases of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis occurred in 1939 and these were effectively treated at various fever hospitals. It is becoming more necessary each year that this area should have an Infectious Fever Institution of its own. It is deplorable to think that the nearest fever institution of any value is eighteen miles away from Ystradgynlais and twentyfour miles from Colbren. During the last six weeks of the year there was a heavy epidemic of Whooping Cough. There were no deaths reported from this disease.

The greater part of the Medical Officer of Health's work this year has been taken up by Air Raid Precaution work and with the arrangements of the Government Evacuation Scheme

25. A.R.P. The First Aid Section of this organization has been well developed. There is one First Aid Post, that being at the Ystradgynlais Welfare Hall, and there are six First Aid Posts, these being at Colbren, Abercrave, Penycae, Penrhos, and Cwmtwrch. The Transport Section under Mr. A. Webb's direction has been most efficiently conducted.

26. EVACUATION SCHEME. Actual evacuation did not occur although threatened on more than one occasion. Billeting and transport arrangements are still ready for any emergency, also all arrangements for the medical examination of evacuees.

27. CEFNMEUSYDD HOUSE AT Abercrave was placed at the Council's disposal as a Hostel for evacuees; this was equipped and is ready at any time should occasion arise for the reception of evacuee children who, for medical reasons, cannot be billeted in private houses.

I am,
Your obedient servant

(SGD) GLYN M JONES.

M.O.H.

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1939

28. ESTIMATED NUMBER OF DWELLINGHOUSES.

Ystradgynlais Higher	466
Ystradgynlais Lower	2371
Number of Schools within the District	10
Number of Cowsheds, Dairies and Milk Shops	91
Number of Workshops	26
Number of Slaughterhouses	8

29. DWELLINGHOUSES WITH PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY

Ystradgynlais Higher	342
Ystradgynlais Lower	1888
Cwmtwrch Joint Water Scheme	389

30. NUMBER OF DWELLINGHOUSES

With Baths (Estimated)	342
With Water Closets (estimated)	1888
With Slop Water System (estimated)	49
Pail and Privy System	342

31. NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

With Private Water Supply	10
On the Water carriage System	9
On the Pail or Primitive System	1

32. INSPECTIONS

Inspections and re-inspections made under The Housing Acts 1909 -1936 and also The Public Health Acts 1875 -1936 in general		3451
Inspections and re-inspection of premises	3451	11
Inspections of workshops	103	
Inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds & Milk Shops	134	
Inspection of Private Slaughterhouses	121	
Inspection of Schools	57	

33. NUISANCES

Nuisances arising from Drains	10
Insufficient and Defective Sanitary Conveniences	19
Dampness in walls of dwellinghouses	28
Other nuisances	13

34. SUMMARY OF IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED

Adjacent and dwelling areas paved and repaved	21
"Open areas" constructed around dwellinghouses	29
Dampness in walls of dwellinghouses remedied	16
Base of chimneys & also parapet walls remedied	34
House roofs repaired	49
New Troughing provided and also readjusted and repaired.	32
Main walls of dwellinghouses coated with cement	27
Water Services and fittings repaired	78
Dwellinghouses provided with a private water supply	79
Existing houses where Sanitary Conveniences were repaired	18
Number of drains reconstructed	22
Accumulations of manure &c. removed	7

35. NOTICES SERVED

Preliminary Notices	123
Statutory Notices	19

36. DRAINS CONSTRUCTED

Recognized Schemes	5
Main Drains	7
Branch Drains	237

37. DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILK SHOPS

Number of Cowsheds on Register	91
Number of Milk Sellers on Register	93
Number of Inspections	164
Number of Defects	10
Nuisances arising from Manure heaps	4
Cowsheds to Limewash	3

38. SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Number of Slaughterhouses on Register	8
Licensed Slaughterhouses	6
Registered	2
Number of Inspections	121
Number of defects	3
Nuisances from want of Lime Washing	1
Nuisances from want of cleanliness	1

39. WORKSHOPS

Number of Workshops on Register	26
Number of Inspections	103
Nuisances from overcrowding	1
Nuisances from want of cleansing	1
Nuisances from want of Limewashing &c.	1
Nuisances from Ventilation being indifferent	-

40. HOUSING ACTS 1930 - 1936

Number of dwellinghouses inspected	101
Number of Inspections and re-inspections	257
Number of ill-conditioned dwellinghouses	28
Number of housesthat require considerable repairs and re-conditioning	49

41. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS DURING THE YEAR

Number of dwellinghouses inspected	101
Number of dwellinghouses demolished as a result of formal procedure under Section 11-1936 &c.	8
Number of dwellinghouses "closed" but not demolished as a result of undertakings by owners under Section 11 not to further use the houses for human habitation	24
Parts of buildings "Closed". Section 12	3

Number of dwellinghouses made fit:-

(1) As a result of Formal Notices under Sections 9-12	16
(2) As a result of Informal Notices preliminary to formal procedure under Sections 9-12	29

Number of houses represented to the Council for demolition under Section 19 and "Closing Order" under Section 20 of The Housing Act 1930, and moreover under Section 10 and Section 12 of The Housing (Slum Clearance) Act 1936	77
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Number of dwellinghouses or parts thereof, including basement rooms which are occupied as dwellings represented to the Council with a view of serving "Closing Orders".	3
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42. THE GENERAL CHARACTER OF DEFECTS

ASPECT: An ill-aspect in relation to the compass and in consequence ill-health. SITE: Damp sites and devoid of sub-soil drainage; foundations devoid of concrete; the absence of a damp-proof course inserted between the ground and the upper walls to prevent dampness by capillary attraction rising in the walls; main walls too thin and friable and in exposed situations; main walls erected adjacent to the strata necessitating open areas; base of chimneys instead of lead flashings being inserted to overlap stepwise in the brickwork is protected by a fillet of cement only - this defect with parapet walls also invariably not infrequent; insufficient lap allowed for slates when roof covering Insufficient troughing with improper spouting; Vent shafts from drains too short, tapping the sewage gas below the eaves, and hence gaining access into attics, bedrooms &c.&c. Rainwater pipes connected with sewage drains instead of discharging into (a) a gully trap, also taps the sewage air or gas below the eaves as aforesaid. Soil pipe vents and also other vents should be at least two feet at least above the eaves- window sills much dampness below every window is caused by this simple defect; chimneys with no fireplaces in bedrooms indicating dampness in chimney breasts; insufficient light; no back doors for through ventilation. Such fireplaces are also required (1) to maintain normal

and uniform temperature during illness (2) TO improve ventilation (3) TO burn scraps of food &c. after patient therein suffering from an infectious disease. Insufficient height in room resulting in the agencies from respiration such as organic matter and carbonic acid polluting the air of the rooms at breathing point.

43. DISINFECTION The number of rooms fumigated after Infectious Diseases:-

27

44 SCAVENGING

The Council's administrative area is divided into two parishes viz:-

Ystradgynlais Higher
Ystradgynlais Lower

YSTRADGYNLAIS HIGHER is divided into two sections viz:- Colbren also Caehopkin and Pen-y-cae. At Colbren the collection of house refuse was made four half-days weekly whereas Caehopkin and Penycae collection of refuse was made six days weekly.

During the year the number of loads collected at the former was 366, whereas the latter number of loads collected was 877.

YSTRADGYNLAIS LOWER is divided into three sections, viz Abercrave, Ystradgynlais and Cwmtwrch. The collection of refuse and street sweepings at Abercrave was made on six days weekly.

CWMTWRCH SECTION: Collection of House refuse and Street sweepings within this section was made six days weekly Likewise the Ystradgynlais Section where urban conditions exist. Six days weekly are employed for the purpose of house and street refuse collections.

The estimated number of loads collected during the year within the Ystradgynlais Lower Parish was 4249 loads.

The Council has four excellent refuse disposal sites where "Controlled" tipping is carried on, a method with which the Ministry of Health is highly favourable.

The refuse disposal site attendant was appointed four years ago to attend to the sites as as to maintain everything in order

With the closing of this paragraph I would respectfully beg to suggest that the Council purchase and provide a proper covered Sanitary Conveyance for the collection of house &c. refuse within the centre of Ystradgynlais. With the advent of motor and mechanical power vehicles on the highways with high velocities of travel and its high wind currents in the streets give rise to serious complaints of nuisances, and moreover refuse at times at the height of summer is offensive to sight and finally the distance to the site for horse drawn vehicles is too far -efficiency is thus impaired.

45.

BUILDINGS ERECTED 1939

	<u>Higher</u>	<u>Lower</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dwellinghouses	-	11	11
Bungalows	-	-	-
Additions, Improvements, Conversions.	1	12	13
Flats	-	-	-
Garages	-	7	7
Other Buildings	-	1	1
Cowsheds	-	-	-
Petrol Pumps	-	1	1
Cafe	1	-	1
<u>COUNCIL HOUSES:</u>			
Penrhos	-	12	12
Lluest	-	8	8
TOTAL:-			54

46

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	64	9	58	292	134
Number inspected	64	9	58	292	134
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	6			3
All diseases except Tuberculosis, whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected with disease other than tuberculosis	12.5	66.6.	-	-	2.24
Tuberculosis only whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-

47.

THE FACTORIES ACT 1937

Factories with Mechanical Power

Factories without Mechanical Power

Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering constructions but not including out workers premises).

	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>WITH Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers prosecuted</u>
With Mechanical Power	37	2	-
Without mechanical power	61	1	-
	98	3	-

48.

RAINFALL in 1939

At Wern House, Ystalyfera Swansea in the
County of Glamorgan

The following particulars as indicated have been very kindly
supplied by Miss Lily Williams.

Month	Total depth	Greatest fall in 24 hours	Number of days with .01 or more recorded
	<u>Inches</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Inches</u>
January	9.40	January 7th.	1.28
February	7.47	February 8th	1.20
March	3.19	March 5th	.54
April	5.17	April 5th	1.09
May	1.09	May 5th	.31
June	5.46	June 16th	1.88
July	13.24	July 7th	1.97
August	4.59	August 10th	1.33
September	1.13	September 4th	.35
October	4.06	October 11th	.63
November	16.07	November 26th	2.75
December	4.59	December 9th	1.35
TOTAL:-75.46			192

Rain Gauge	{ Diameter of Funnel	5 inches
	{ Height of top	{ Above ground 1 feet 6 inches Above sea level 240 feet

ANNUAL RAINFALL AT WERN HOUSE YSTALYFERA

For 12 months ended
31st December.

	Inches
1930	80.57
1931	71.23
1932	71.59
1933	53.21
1934	68.35
1935	70.29
1936	60.26
1937	58.32
1938	76.69
1939	75.46
	<hr/> 685.97

Average for last 10 years 68.60
Average for last 48 years 68.74

RAINFALL FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 1939 AT PENWYLLT POST OFFICE

The following particulars as indicated have been kindly
supplied by Mrs.H.L.Davies, Post Office, Penwyllt.

Month	Total depth	Greatest fall in 24 hours Date	Inches	No.of days with .01 or more recorded
January	11.21	Jan. 7th	1.70	18
February	6.97	Feb.8th	1.12	18
March	3.63	Mar.2nd.	.57	16
April	4.59	Apl.5th	1.10	16
May	2.00	May 22nd.	1.04	6
June	3.90	June 16th	1.76	14
July	13.63	July 7th	2.20	27
August	5.10	Aug.10th	1.27	16
September	2.09	Sep.10th	.60	9
October	4.84	Oct. 9th	1.81	15
November	14.81	Nov.26th	2.19	24
December	5.23	Dec. 8th	1.33	14
	<hr/> 78.00			<hr/> 193

Rain Guage: Diameter of funnel - 5 inches, height of top
above ground 1 foot, above sea level.900 feet.

I remain,
Your obedient Servant,

G.J. REES. C.R.S.I., M.R.S.I. M.S.I.A.
(LONDON BY EXAM).
Sanitary Inspector.

